THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ): (a) There is no proposal to create a separate body to protect investments made by lower income people. The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) functioning since 1988 as a capital market regulator has taken a number of steps to protect all sections of investors.

(b) Entrepreneurs making public issues of equity shares are required to disclose all the major risk factors associated with the project and other relevant material in the prospectus. All investors are expected to be guided by the risk factors and make a due assessment of the investmnet proposal.

(c) SEBI already has a number of regulations of control the working of market intermediaries such as brokers, sub-brokers, share transfer agents, debenture trustees, mutual funds, portfolio managers, merchant bankers etc. The Securities Laws (Amendments) Act, 1995 has further equipped SEBI to regulate matters pertaining to issue of capital, transfer of securities and other related matters. SEBI has been vested with powers to issue directions to companies with a view to protecting the interests of investors in securities and the securities market.

Mahila Courts in rural areas

3961. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal regarding setting up of Mahila courts in rural areas of the country under consideration of the Union Government to provide justice to the rural young ladies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ): (a) to (d) The Administration of Justice in the District|Subordinate Courts comes under the purview of the High Courts/State Governments concerned. It is within the prerogative of the State Governments/High Courts to set up such exclusive courts to be called Mahia Courts. Setting up of Women (Mahila) Courts does not required the backing of any Central Statute, like in the case of Family Courts, but depends on the necessity and will of States/High Courts.

उच्चतम न्यायालय/उच्च न्यायालयों में अनूसूचित जाति/अनसूचित जनजाति की महिला न्यायाधीश

3962. **श्री एस. एस. सुरजेवाला :**
श्री अजित जोगी :

क्या प्रधान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) उच्चतम न्यायालय और उच्च न्यायालयों में न्यायाधीशों की कुल संख्या कितनी है तथा उनमें से अनुसूचित जातियों एवं अनुसूचित जनजातियों से संबंधित न्यायाधीशों की संख्या कितनी है और उनमें से महिला न्यायाधीशों की संख्या कितनी-कितनी है;

(ख) क्या देश की जनसंख्या के अनुपात में न्यायाधीशों की संख्या बहुत कम है;

(ग) क्या विधि आयोग ने विभिन्न उच्च न्यायालयों में न्यायाधीशों की संख्या को बढ़ाने के लिए सुझाव दिया है ;

(घ) यदि हां, तो सरकार द्वारा इस संबंध में क्या-क्या कदम उठाये गये हैं अथवा उठाने जाने का विचार है ; और